

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

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No. 28

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
POWER DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK**

No. 8/Power/GOS

Dated: 14/01/2020

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, in pursuance of the guidelines of Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), launched by Ministry of Power, Government of India, the State Government hereby adopts prepaid electricity meters for electricity consumers in the State in a phase manner;

Now therefore, with a view to achieve the above objectives, it is mandatory for all the consumers in the State of Sikkim, existing or new, to install prepaid electricity meters in order to avail electricity supply. The pattern of conversion to prepaid system will be systematic and planned and shall be taken up area-wise in a phased manner with at least a month's advance notice to the public of the area.

2. Mode of implementation shall be as under:

- (1) Prepaid electricity metres shall be installed in all consumer premises in domestic and commercial category having a connected load of upto 45KW.
- (2) Prepaid recharge vouchers shall be available to the consumer, both online as well as at physical counters at designated places.
- (3) Nominal vending charge plus applicable GST shall be charged to the consumer for generation of prepaid recharge vouchers, both offline and online.
- (4) Meter rent shall be waived for prepaid consumers across all categories.
- (5) One percent(1%) additional rebate shall be allowed to prepaid meter consumers over and above the rebate allowed in the electricity tariff.
- (6) The State Government shall replace the static post-paid meters of existing consumers free of cost in a phased manner.
- (7) New consumers shall have to procure their own prepaid meter as per department's specification.

- (8) For existing consumers, if the prepaid meters installed in their premises is found to be defective and is outside the warranty period or the defect is not covered under the warranty, it shall be the responsibility of the consumer to procure a new prepaid meter as per Power Department's specification.
- (9) The minimum value of recharge voucher shall be Rs.200/- (Rupees Two Hundred) and the maximum value shall be Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand). All the intervening values between Rs.200 and Rs.30,000 will be in steps of Rs.50/- (Rupees Fifty).
- (10) Credit of Rs.200/- for domestic supply and Rs.1000/- for commercial supply shall be allowed in order to minimise inconvenience to the consumers. This shall will be adjusted in full whenever the consumer recharges the meter subsequently.
- (11) The meter shall not switch off between 4:15 pm and 9:45 am during working days and also all day on Sundays and pre-declared holidays. This is called friendly credit. The consumption during this period shall be adjusted in full when the consumer recharges the meter subsequently.
- (12) Owing to nature of the connection, friendly and emergency credit shall not to be extended to Temporary Connections.
- (13) A maximum credit limit in the prepaid meter shall be Rs.30,000/- for all categories.
- (14) Owing to tariff limitation, prepaid meters shall not be issued to low tension consumers with service connection under Low Tension Industrial Supply and Bulk Supply categories.
- (15) Prepaid meters shall not be installed for public lighting.
- (16) Prepaid recharge vouchers shall not be cancelled once generated.
- (17) In cases where the consumers may have existing unpaid arrear, the arrear of such consumer shall be reconciled. Once the figure is finalized to the satisfaction of both the parties i.e. the Government and the Consumer, the consumer has the option of paying the outstanding arrear within a period of 1 (one) year from the date of reconciliation in instalments (subject to twelve instalments maximum) or in full as one-time settlement. Applicable surcharge as per existing tariff will have to be borne by the consumer.

3. This notification shall come into force with immediate effect.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

A. B. Rai
PCE-cum-Secretary,
Power Department,
Government of Sikkim